

## Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-11

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAM-01 SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 ACDA-19 DODE-00 DRC-01

/133 W

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R 041604Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2890

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 617

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NL, NATO

SUBJECT: FONMIN'S STATEMENT ON NATO

1. IN RADIO INTERVIEW WITH LABOR PARTY YOUTH ORGANIZATION BROADCAST FEB 2, FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL WAS ASKED ABOUT CONTINUING DUTCH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. THE FOREIGN MINISTER REPLIED, "LET US TAKE CARE THAT NATO DOES NOT FALL APART. ACTUALLY, I SEE TREMENDOUSLY GREAT DANGER SHOULD THAT HAPPEN. SOMETHING FAR MORE UNPLEASANT WOULD TAKE ITS PLACE--EITHER MORE ATOMIC POWERS IN EUROPE OR AN INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN NUCLEAR FORCE. THAT APPEARS TO ME TO BE AN UNBELIEVABLY DANGEROUS DEVELOPMENT AS FAR AS THE ENTIRE SITUATION OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE WORLD IS CONCERNED."

2. VAN DER STOEL'S COMMENTS CAME FEW DAYS AFTER HIS YOUNG LABOR PARTY COLLEAGUE, STATE SECRETARY FOR DEFENSE (MATERIEL) STEMERDINK, TOLD A LABOR PARTY POLITICAL RALLY ON JAN 30 THAT THE GON SHOULD RECONSIDER

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ITS MEMBERSHIP IN NATO DURING THE COURSE OF THE NEXT

FOUR YEARS IF THERE NO CHANGE IN POLITICAL SYSTEMS  
OF EITHER GREECE OR PORTUGAL. BUT STEMERDINK HAD ALSO  
WARNED THAT EUROPE COULD NOT PURSUE A POLICY OF  
CONFRONTATION WITH THE US SINCE THIS AUTOMATICALLY  
MEANT THE CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN NUCLEAR FORCE.

3. COMMENT: REASSESSMENT OF DUTCH NATO MEMBER-  
SHIP IS RECURRENT THEME AMONG YOUNGER MEMBERS OF  
DUTCH LABOR PARTY. AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, THIS  
ISSUE WILL BE A PRINCIPAL TOPIC OF DISCUSSION IN THE  
SPECIAL LABOR PARTY FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONGRESS ON  
FOREIGN POLICY SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 1974. VAN  
DER STOEL'S AND STEMERDINK'S COMMENTS SUGGEST THAT  
LABOR PARTY LEADERSHIP'S OFFICIAL LINE WILL BE THAT  
WHILE NATO HAS SHORT-COMINGS, THE ALTERNATIVES  
(E.G. INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN NUCLEAR FORCE) ARE EVEN LESS  
DESIRABLE.  
GOULD

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